

THE CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 8, 2011

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board of Trustees met at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 in the auditorium of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Bess Lawing, Jody Street, Amanda Kain, Joe Kerley, Amy Smith, Patricia Gibson and Karen Foss, Library Director.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Joyce Beatty

ALSO PRESENT: April Green and Lynne Reed, library staff; and members of the library Strategic Planning Group committee: Dewey Harris, Asst. County Manager; Lance Hight, City of Conover Planning Director; Kim Salyards, Exec. Dir, Partnership for Children.

Joe Kerley, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 9, 2010, were approved as written.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Foss welcomed library board members and guests to the meeting.

Ms. Foss presented the final draft of the library strategic plan.

Ms. Foss reported that community leaders, library board and library staff worked on the strategic plan with guidance from library consultant Sandra Nelson. She reported that the plan clearly defines the central mission and focus for the library and provides a good framework for the library to continue to provide excellent service to Catawba County citizens. She also noted that the plan is a fluid plan and will change as the needs of library users' change.

Ms. Foss reviewed the six goals and objectives identified by staff and community, noting that these goals will be the foundation for the library's budget outcomes. The floor was opened for discussion, input and comments.

The six strategic planning goals are as follows:

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: Preschool children will develop a love of books and reading and enter school ready to read, write, and listen.

1. Librarians will create “Ready to Learn” preschool education programs for children and caregivers that help to prepare children for school success.
2. Librarians will train staff to present “Ready to Learn” programs that support North Carolina’s early learning standards as defined in the “Foundations” document at <http://www.ncprek.nc.gov/Foundations/index.asp>.
3. Staff will implement “Ready to Learn” preschool education programs using the materials created by librarian staff to insure consistency in quality across the library system.
4. Increase expenditures on materials for preschool children and their families.
5. Increase the frequency of children’s programs.
6. Continue providing Bookbagger service to childcare centers. Bookbaggers are canvas bags stocked with easy picture books for checkout by childcare centers to help connect young children with high quality reading materials.
7. Employ new technology applications in the libraries that relate to young children and learning.

GOAL 2: Everyone will have consistent, high-speed access to the resources and services available through the Internet.

1. Continue to investigate and implement improving high-speed access to all libraries in the system.
2. Add wireless printing for wi-fi users.
3. Upgrade electrical power to support increased use of technology.
4. Continue to upgrade and improve library technology to meet community needs.

GOAL 3: Everyone will be able to use technology to find, evaluate, and apply information and communicate with others.

1. Increase the frequency and availability of computer training for the community.

2. Expand subjects for computer classes that respond to users' needs to learn basic through advanced skills. Include topics such as job searching and career support, social networking, Skype, PhotoStory, word processing, spreadsheets, and others as they become available.
3. Develop a core group of librarian technology trainers who design course curricula that respond to the needs of adult learners.
4. Staff will implement the courses using the materials created by librarian staff to insure consistency in quality across the library system.
5. Provide more visible access to online technology tutorials that help people who desire self-paced learning opportunities.
6. Provide easy access to online e-government resources and help citizens use these resources effectively.
7. Promote the use of the library's online resources such as NCLive, Learning Express, MedlinePlus, and others as they become available.
8. Increase use of the library's self-check technology.
9. Continue to improve the library catalog so that people can effectively find the information that they need.

GOAL 4: Residents and visitors will have the resources they need to connect the past with the present through their family histories and to understand the history and traditions of the Catawba Valley.

1. Improve and expand access to valuable local resources by digitizing unique materials and placing them online.
2. Offer training on genealogical research, especially utilizing the Rhodes Room print and online resources.
3. Promote the use of the Rhodes Room's online resources such as HeritageQuest, African American Heritage, Ancestry.com and others as they become available.
4. Provide local and family history research assistance.

GOAL 5: School-age children and teens will discover materials and programs that stimulate their imagination, satisfy their curiosity, and foster a love of reading.

1. Implement additional children's and teen programming that includes reading enrichment activities, but also includes topics that support the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning that is emphasized in the schools.
2. Update the summer reading program to promote free-choice reading that helps children and their caregivers develop a love of books and reading, encouraging them to read with us and use the library.
3. Continue to update and increase youth collections that appeal to the varied reading interests of children and teens.

GOAL 6: Adults will have timely access to materials and services that respond to their current interests and stimulate their imaginations.

1. Reallocate space at all branches to reduce print reference and make more room for popular reading materials.
2. Allocate more of the book fund to popular reading materials.
3. Rotate the film, music, and other small collections at branches to provide improved access to materials throughout the county.
4. Provide DVDs, audiobooks, downloadable resources, and eBooks through the North Carolina Digital Library, Tumblebooks, Project Gutenberg and other resources as they come available.
5. Offer adult literary programs at the Main Library that encourage reading.

After review and discussion of the plan, Mary Bess Lawing made the motion: **"TO ADOPT THE LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN AS SUBMITTED."** Amanda Kain seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by board members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harris commented that he feels libraries will continue to be needed in the future, noting they give good balance to local needs.

There was a discussion on the outreach program and reaching out to daycare centers. Ms. Foss explained that the branch libraries have taken the place of the bookmobile service to reach all citizens of Catawba County. It was reported that daycare staff come to the library and pick up books to take back to their centers and read.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12.40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, Main Library

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Shull, Secretary